

Handbell Harmonies How-To's

For Use with Groups Aged 3 and Up

- This handbell bundle is designed to help you have so much fun with your handbells! We use the **KidsPlay** brand of handbells so our bell colors correspond to them. If you are using a different brand of bells, you could use our black and white pdf chord charts.
- We are using **chords to harmonize the songs** (guitar style) rather than having the children play every melody note. Mostly we follow the chords marked in the Children's Songbook although we may eliminate or change a chord from time to time for ease of use or better accuracy.
- Give each participant a handbell and make sure each one knows the letter of his or her bell. **Each bell ringer rings his bell vigorously when the letter of his bell is showing and holds it quietly against his shoulder or chest when the letter of his bell is not showing.** Bells are fairly expensive and children should respect this instrument. They should not touch the ball or spring inside the handbell and should keep their handbell quiet except when their letter is showing. **I try to make the rules clear before I hand out the bells** and I don't allow second chances in the same song. A child's second chance can come in the next song. :)
- To use the **color or black & white pdf charts**, insert each page inside a **plastic page protector** and then place in reverse order in a **binder**. Put the spine of the binder over a chair or music stand (as in Photo 1) or inverted like an easel binder on a table (as in Photo 2). Hold each page up in turn as it is being shown and then let it drop forward. This works faster than lifting the pages upward to show them. It is a great method for displaying flipcharts. Drop the page just a bit before the chord change so bell-ringers can react in time.
- To use the **video**, download it to your **iPad or other portable computer** and use it straight from there. Or download to a **flash drive and use that with a TV**. This video contains our **enhanced piano accompaniment** for this piece and shows the next set of handbell chords just a split second before the change so that your bell-ringers can be ready to ring at the chord change.
- We have also included **master copies of the chords** (color and black & white) so that you can see the chord order at a glance.

Photo 1

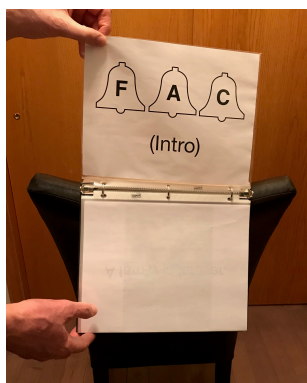


Photo 2

